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## **Delaware Community Organizations and Advocates Announce Support for Public Health Emergency Credit Bill**

WILMINGTON — ACLU of Delaware, Building People Power, Campaign for Smart Justice, Campaign to End Debtor’s Prison, Coalition to Dismantle The New Jim Crow, Delaware Center for Justice, Delaware NAACP, Delaware United, and Network Delaware have launched a campaign today in support of House Bill 37, the Public Health Emergency Credit bill up for consideration in the General Assembly.

The proposed legislation, so-sponsored by Senator Marie Pinkney and Representative Melissa Minor-Brown, would create a “public health emergency credit,” expanding avenues for early release during times of crisis, when traditional avenues for earned credits may not be available. For every month served during a public health emergency a person would receive 6 months’ credit, up to a maximum reduction in sentence of 1 year. This will reduce the prison population in an orderly and fair manner, relieving pressure on staff and creating better conditions for people who remain incarcerated to socially distance and mitigate the spread of infectious diseases.

“HB 37 is a piece of legislation that’s rooted in recommendations from public health experts,” said Mike Brickner, executive director of the ACLU of Delaware. “This bill creates a clear path to early release, a critical component to containing the spread of COVID-19 inside prison walls.”

The advocacy campaign in support of HB 37 kicked off with a letter to the 151st General Assembly today, and aims to garner public and legislative support for swift passage and signing of the proposed legislation. The ACLU of Delaware urges members of the public to follow their social media pages for updates on the status of the bill, action items, and other campaign news.

The full letter can be found online here:

This press release can be found online here:

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